Internet A Breeding Ground for Paedophiles

2714. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recently released pamphlet of the UNESCO which says that the internet is a breeding ground for paedophiles; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) UNESCO has released a report expressing concern about child pornography and paedophilia on the Internet.

(b) As per the License Agreement, Internet Service Providers are responsible for ensuring that no obscene materials are carried by their network. Information Technology Act, 2000 has provisions to deal with circulation of obscene materials through internet and the implementation of this Act would be deterrent to such activities.

Integrating Media Under Single Authority

2715. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with fast growth and development of Information technology, Government propose to integrate, coordinate and regulate vast varieties of audio, video, voice and data services media under a single authority in order to make it easily available at affordable prices; and

(b) if so, the details of such authority and its *modus operandi?*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) The Government proposes to

bring before the Parliament a comprehensive legislation which will, *inter-alia*, provide for regulatory mechanism for various aspects of broadcasting. However, the exact details are yet to be finalised and no time frame can be indicated for the same as yet.

Raising the Number of IT Programmes

2716. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are raising number of I.T. Programmes to two lakhs as stated by him as appeared in 'Indian Express' of 27th May, 2000; and

(b) if so, how Government are going to achieve the targets?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) A high level Task Force under the Chairmanship of Minister for Human Resource Development has been constituted by the Government on 01.08.2000. The main objective of the Task Force is to prepare a long term strategy for Human Resource Development in IT. Amongst its terms of reference it is required to draw up a plan to optimally use the existing infrastructure of the IIT's/Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs), other engineering colleges and educational institutions to double their student intake on IT from the next academic year and triple it in the next two years. This report is required to be submitted to the Government within one month. Government will take further action on receipt of the Report. Meantime several steps have been initiated by the Government to promote IT education at various levels which include: setting up of Smart Schools, promotion of virtual Universities, IT Education in the non-formal sector through DOEACC Scheme and increasing the intake of students to both IITs and RECs.